

S/N NEW FILING

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	STENERSEN ET AL.	Examiner:	NEW FILING
Serial No.:	NEW FILING	Group Art Unit:	NEW FILING
Filed:	NEW FILING	Docket No.:	758.1040USD1
Title:	LIQUID FILTER CONSTRUCTION AND METHODS		

CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.10

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service 'Express Mail Post Office To Addressee' service under 37 CFR 1.10 on the date indicated above and is addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

By: 

Name: Chris Stordahl

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

Before examination, kindly amend this application as follows:

In The Specification:

On page 1, after the title of the invention and before the Field of the Invention, please delete any cross-reference to related applications and insert the following:

--This application is a divisional of U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 09/653,653, filed September 1, 2000. Application 09/653,653 claimed priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) to Provisional Application Serial No. 60/229,348, filed September 22, 1999. Provisional Application Serial No. 60/229,348 was converted from a utility application having Serial No. 09/401,104, filed September 22, 1999. The complete disclosures of Application Serial No. 09/401,104; 60/229,348; and 09/653,653 are incorporated by reference herein.--

In The Claims:

Please cancel claims 19-23. Please amend claim 1 as follows:

1. (Amended) A liquid filter construction comprising:
 - (a) a metal baffle plate having an inlet arrangement and an outlet arrangement;
 - (i) said metal baffle plate having an average cross-sectional thickness of at least 0.080 inch;
 - (b) a metal can having an interior and an average cross-sectional wall thickness different than that of said metal baffle plate thickness; said metal can average cross-sectional wall thickness being at least 0.008 inch;
 - (i) said metal can being secured to said metal baffle plate along a laser welded seam; and
 - (c) a filter element operably oriented within said interior of said metal can.

REMARKS

This application is a divisional application of Serial No. 09/653,653. In the parent application, the Examiner imposed a restriction requirement between apparatus claims 1 - 18 and method claims 19 - 23. In the parent application, Applicants elected to prosecute method claims 19 - 23. These claims have been allowed. By this divisional application, Applicants are pursuing apparatus claims 1 - 18.

Applicants have amended claim 1 to clarify antecedent basis. It is respectfully submitted that applicants have not changed the claim scope under the Festo decision by this Amendment because the Amendment is to merely correct an informality.

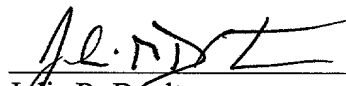
Applicants have included an Information Disclosure Statement herewith. The Examiner is requested to consider the art cited with respect to the pending claims.

Applicants respectfully request a speedy examination and a Notice of Allowance. If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would advance the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 25 February 2002



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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

Claim 1 was amended as follows:

1. (Amended) A liquid filter construction comprising:
 - (a) a metal baffle plate having an inlet arrangement and an outlet arrangement;
 - (i) said metal baffle plate having an average cross-sectional thickness of at least 0.080 inch;
 - (b) a metal can having an interior and an average cross-sectional wall thickness different than that of said metal baffle plate thickness; said metal can average cross-sectional wall thickness being at least 0.008 inch;
 - (i) said metal can being secured to said [steel] metal baffle plate along a laser welded seam; and
 - (c) a filter element operably oriented within said interior of said metal can.

